

in appreciation for President Volodymyr Zelenskyy from Ukraine for stopping war criminal Putin's invasion.

His address to the joint meeting of Congress was historic and heartfelt. Sadly, the world is in a competition between democracies with rule of law as opposed to autocrats by rule of gun. The first target is Ukraine with clear warnings to Moldova, Georgia, Taiwan, Israel, and America.

The resolve and courage of President Zelenskyy and the Ukrainian people have unified Republicans and Democrats, NATO with Finland and Sweden, the European Union, Japan, South Korea, and Australia supporting Ukraine.

President Zelenskyy is a symbol of freedom and courage for Ukraine and all who cherish democracy and oppose murderous invasion maintaining borders.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, who successfully protected America for 20 years, as the global war on terrorism continues moving from Afghanistan's safe haven to America.

God bless Ukraine. God bless President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Ukraine will achieve victory for a merry Christmas.

GOVERNMENT IS WORKING FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

(Ms. MCCOLLUM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, the day is finally here. Today, we are going to vote to make sure that our government is working for the American people.

I would especially like to thank chair of the Appropriations Committee, ROSA DE LAURO, for her amazing patience and her steadfast work to make this day happen, as well as Speaker PELOSI and Mr. SCHUMER in the Senate.

Members, this bill will not only keep the government open so that our constituents don't find themselves in a lot more distress with the economic hard times that we are facing during the holiday season, but it is also going to guarantee that children have access to healthcare, schools remain open, hospitals can treat flu patients; so many things that are all important to the constituents we serve.

I am especially proud of the work that I do as the Appropriations Defense Subcommittee chair to make sure that our troops receive the pay that they deserve, the support that their families need, the work that I was able to do in PFAS remediation, research in healthcare, and to work on climate change. Because all those are important to our national security.

I will have more remarks provided in the RECORD.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF FRANCO HARRIS

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life and legacy of Franco Harris, an iconic Steelers and Penn State football running back.

The Hall of Fame running back who was known for the "Immaculate Reception," considered the most iconic play in NFL history 50 years ago today, passed away at the age of 72 this week.

Before the infamous play, Franco was a proud Nittany Lion. During his time donning blue and white, Harris helped lead Penn State to a 29-4 record from 1969 to 1971. Harris is among Penn State's top 20 rushers in program history with 2,002 career yards and 24 touchdowns.

Franco not only impacted the game of football, but he also affected the lives of many, many people in profoundly positive ways.

Following his retirement from the NFL, Harris returned to Pittsburgh, opened a bakery, and became heavily involved in several charities, including serving as chairman of The Pittsburgh Promise which provides college scholarship opportunities for Pittsburgh public school students.

Franco is survived by his loving wife, Dana Dokmanovich, and his son, Dok. My prayers and thoughts are with Dana, Dok, and Franco's friends.

RECOGNIZING MADISON SEILER

(Mr. SMITH of Nebraska asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the hard work, resilience, and achievements of Nebraska distance running standout, Madison Seiler.

As a high school freshman running for my alma mater, Gering High School, Maddie was a top-four finisher in class B at the Nebraska State cross country meet and a member of the State class B girls State championship team. The following year, she won her first individual State championship as a sophomore.

Prior to her junior season, Maddie suffered a serious ankle injury which required surgery. Despite missing the entire summer training period and all but one competition leading up to the district and State championship races, she began running just 45 days after surgery and overcame improbable odds to repeat as individual State champion in 2021. It was an extraordinary achievement.

This October, Maddie's determination and discipline once again led to another individual State championship, and in doing so, she became just the 13th runner in Nebraska high

school cross country history to be a three-time State champion. Maddie is an honor roll student, and her family and community are incredibly proud of her. Go Bulldogs.

RECOGNIZING DON McSPARRAN FOR HIS SERVICE

(Mr. PFLUGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Midland local and World War II veteran Don McSparran for his service to our community.

For the past 22 years, Mr. McSparran has spent countless hours patrolling Midland as a volunteer with the Midland Police Department. With his wife, Doris, in the passenger seat, Mr. McSparran drives around town assisting folks at any given moment with something as minor as a local traffic accident or as major as a lost child. He has helped countless people around Midland and is seen as a staple of the MPD.

Over the years, Mr. McSparran has selflessly given so much of his time to keep our community safe. Now, at the age of 96, Mr. McSparran has no intention of slowing down. He continues to serve with the utmost commitment, dedication, and patriotism. His efforts strengthen and engage our community, and he improves every life that he touches.

At the beginning of this month, Midland Mayor Patrick Payton officially declared the day "Don McSparran Appreciation Day," a wonderful time to recognize Mr. McSparran's lifetime of service and incredible dedication to our community.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. McSparran for his time, for his heart, and for his efforts to make Midland a better place. Our district is blessed to have wonderful servant leaders like Don.

ENERGY AND WATER

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, the energy and water division of the omnibus bill captures America's spirit of innovation and ingenuity.

To succeed in the 21st century, our Nation must be positioned to unleash its full potential.

These energy and water investments will create good-paying jobs, lower costs, and improve communities from the heartland to the coasts as we intensify America's energy innovation, fortify water infrastructure, and invigorate the essential work to sustain life on Earth.

By advancing solar, hydrogen, and biofuel technologies, rebuilding ports and waterways, conserving precious environmental ecosystems, we are doing America's work, and we are reinvesting

in the forgotten corners of a deindustrialized Great Lakes region and Appalachian coal fields that need new jobs and innovation.

Our bill responsibly delivers for America. In fact, we set our Nation on a path toward a better, brighter, and more resilient future to be energy, water, and nuclear secure.

Further, I am excited that our Great Lakes Authority legislation is included in this omnibus. This new Federal instrumentality will unlock our industrial heartland's full potential, and it is so much an honor to be able to be a part of the team that passes this omnibus bill today.

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FAREWELL TO CONGRESS

(Mr. HUIZENGA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, as the 117th Congress comes to a close, I rise today to say it has been an absolute honor and privilege to serve Michiganders across Kent, Ottawa, Muskegon, Nawaygo, Oceana, Lake, Mason, and Allegan Counties in the current Second District.

West Michigan is blessed to have beautiful beaches, world-class manufacturing, and an incredible variety of top-notch agricultural produce. But what makes places like Muskegon, Grand Haven, Ludington, Pentwater, Fremont, Baldwin, and Grandville so special are the people who call these communities home.

It is embracing servant leadership. It is emphasizing the value of hard work, and it is fostering the drive to go the extra mile that makes west Michigan such a wonderful place to live, work, and raise a family.

Mr. Speaker, as I say goodbye to the current Second District, I will never forget the residents who have called the Second Congressional District home over the past 10 years or the memories we have shared.

Please know that I will continue to be a champion for you and for Michigan. It has been an honor and a blessing to be your voice in Washington.

RECKLESS AND BLOATED SPENDING BILL WILL COST AMERICANS

(Mr. BURCHETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 2617.

Democrats are railroading this \$1.7 trillion bill full of garbage without any regard for what it is costing Americans.

The truth is our constant flood of reckless, bloated spending bills has blown inflation rates right through the roof, and Americans are going to pay the price.

What are we spending Americans' hard-earned money on you ask, Mr. Speaker?

Well, I will tell you a little bit of it, Mr. Speaker. Over \$45 billion for Ukraine, when Europe should be carrying the burden of these costs. That is \$100 billion total. And don't forget the Democrats blocked any efforts we had to audit this money so we knew exactly where the money was going. That works out to about \$200 million per congressional district, Mr. Speaker. I wonder what we could have spent that on back in east Tennessee.

Mr. Speaker, \$1.2 million is going for LGBT pride centers in San Diego. That is a whole heck of a lot of pride.

Mr. Speaker, \$3 million is for an LGBT museum in New York City; nearly half a million dollars is for an equity institute in Rhode Island; \$545 million is for international family planning and reproductive health—including in areas where population growth would dare to threaten biodiversity or endangered species.

Over \$400 million is for Middle Eastern countries to protect their borders, Mr. Speaker, when we don't even protect our own dadgum borders.

Mr. Speaker, we only have ourselves to blame, and I hope you have a merry Christmas.

FUNDING THE U.S. GOVERNMENT

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, we are here today to fulfill one of Congress' most basic responsibilities: to fund our government and keep it working for the people.

We are not doing that very well. It is the 23rd of December, the day before Christmas Eve. The weather is bad, Members—we will see how many—are here to fulfill their duty. This sweeping package is anything but garbage, as the previous speaker intoned.

It is, in fact, the essence of supporting our national security, our domestic security, and the welfare of our people. That is not garbage.

This sweeping package secures full-year appropriations for fiscal year 2023.

In reality, Mr. Speaker, this bill should have been passed in September of this year.

Why?

Because the fiscal year ends on September 30, and fiscal year 2023 begins on October 1 of this year.

The Senate had not passed a single appropriation bill by the end of the last fiscal year to provide for the fiscal year in which we are now operating. That ought to be unacceptable for the 535 of us who have been sent here to represent the American people in a responsible way and in a way that reflects that we are adults seized with the responsibility that the American people expect us to meet. Today, too late—but never too late to do the right thing—we will meet that responsibility.

I thank Chairwoman DELAURO, Ranking Member GRANGER, their col-

leagues and staff on the House Appropriations Committee, and the staff director, all who have worked round the clock to help us achieve an end which must be achieved every year. This does not come as a surprise to any of us that we have to fund the government of the United States of America.

So I thank each and every member of the staff of the House Appropriations Committee.

Indeed, I thank Mr. LEAHY and Mr. SHELBY, the chair and ranking member of the Appropriations Committee in the United States Senate. They wanted to get this job done. They wanted to get this job done in a timely fashion. But unfortunately, the United States Senate has become enamored with doing an omnibus at the last second. That ought to be a disappointment for every Member of this body and every American.

As an appropriator myself, I know how much work the committee and the staff perform behind the scenes to keep our government operating, and I commend them all for advancing all 12 of the regular appropriation bills for fiscal year 2023 out of their committee in June of this year—in June—while our colleagues in the Senate had not passed any by September 30.

We passed six of those bills through this House, Mr. Speaker. We sent them to the Senate, and they have not been taken up.

Indeed, for the last 4 years, our House majority has passed legislation to fund almost all of the government by the end of summer. Only, Mr. Speaker, by fulfilling this most basic duty can Congress start to make progress on its other obligations to the American people.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as you know and as my colleagues know, I am stepping down as the majority leader. But I am returning to the Appropriations Committee, and I pray that I will have some ability and can make some contribution to effecting a rational appropriations process which pursues regular order, and which understands that we ought to pass every appropriation bill through this House, every one, all 12, by the end of June, which accepts the premise in the United States Senate they ought to pass their appropriation bills by the end of June.

Then we ought to spend July, August, and September in resolving the differences that exist between the Senate and the House on funding priorities. Then by September 30, we will have passed all of those bills and we will have avoided this funding by crisis and avoided this last-minute, Christmas Eve performance of our duties.

Only by fulfilling this most basic duty can Congress start to make progress. We have a responsibility to address issues that undermine the strength and prosperity of American workers and families. That is why this omnibus includes measures to lower costs for Americans by expanding nutrition assistance programs, increasing